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PASSAIC VALLEY SEWERAGE COMMISSIONERS

790 BROAD STREET

NEWARK, N. J. 07102

SDMS Document



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June 8, 1970

SEYMOUR A. LUBETKIN
CHIEF ENGINEER
THOMAS E. DURKIN, JR.
ATTORNEY
MRS. CHARLES T. SCHAEDEL
CLERK-TREASURER

Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners
790 Broad Street

Newark, New Jersey

Re: Stream Contamination Report
May 1970

Gentlemen:

The following is a report on polluting discharges made during the month into the streams under the jurisdiction of the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners:

May 1-31

Violations - City of Newark

On February 6th, 1970, Judgement was entered against the City of Newark, to abate all pollution from the City's Lockwood Street Storm Sewer and Blanchard Street Storm Sewer by May 6, 1970, (three months from date of Order), and the City of Newark was ordered to remove all pollution from the Meadowbrook Storm Sewer by August 6, 1970, (six months from date of Order). As of May 31, 1970, industrial waste continued to discharge into the Passaic River from Blanchard Street and Lockwood Street Storm Sewers and sanitary waste continued to discharge into Second River from the Meadowbrook Storm Sewer. In addition industrial waste continued to discharge into the Passaic River from the Brown Street Storm Sewer, Harrison Ditch Storm Sewer, and the Roanoke Avenue Storm Sewer.

The City of Newark is working to construct a new sewer in the Lister Street area. When this sewer is completed, we are informed they will be able to remove the pollution from the Blanchard Street, Brown Street, and Lockwood Street Storm Sewers. The City has also been notified concerning the Harrison Ditch Storm Sewers and the Roanoke Avenue Storm Sewers. Counsel Durkin was directed to amend the Order to include the Harrison Ditch Storm Sewer and Roanoke Avenue Storm Sewer.

On May 4th, Mr. Lubetkin, wrote to the City of Newark for a Progress Report concerning the elimination of pollution on the above sewers, no written

report was received, but Mr. Lubetkin, received a verbal report, that construction of the Lister Avenue Sewer was proceeding satisfactory but no time schedule for completion was given. We were also verbally told the City, would soon investigate into the Roanoke Avenue Storm Sewer, the Harrison Ditch Storm Sewer and the Meadowbrook Storm Sewer. The Commissioners, despite requests, were unable to obtain any written reports.

On May 12, the Commissioners' river inspectors discovered a new violation, that of a discharge of sewage into the Passaic River from the City of Newark, Second Avenue Storm Sewer. Mr. Van Riper, was called on that date, by Mr. McLaughlin to inform him of this violation. When nothing was done a letter from Mr. Lubetkin, dated May 22, was written to the City of Newark, again informing them of this violation, and directing them to halt the pollution at once. (Note: as of June 2nd, the Second Avenue violation was eliminated.)

May 1-31

Violation - Charter Bulk Service Inc., -
80 Doremus Avenue, Newark, New Jersey - Chemical liquid waste and washings from tank trailers flow onto ground area and thence into the Passaic River. On February 28, 1970, an Order To Show Cause, returnable on March 13, 1970, was issued by the Superior Court of New Jersey. The matter was carried for two weeks on consent of Commissioners' Attorney and then an additional thirty days also on consent of Commissioners' Attorney. During a conference held in the Commissioners office with Mr. Lubetkin, this firm agreed to have the pollution abated by June 1, 1970. This was confirmed in the letter to the Commissioners dated April 20, 1970.

On May 14, 1970, Mr. Lubetkin, wrote to the company reminding them of the date they agreed all work would be completed and pointing out that no work had been started, as of May 14th. Mr. Lubetkin received a telephone call from Mr. Hildeman, President of Charter Bulk Service Inc., informing him that work would start immediately and that the previous time was being used for design. Inspection indicated that on May 18, the Grieco Bros., Newark, N.J., Plumbing Contractors, started work on sewer connection for Charter Bulk Service, Inc.. The latest report indicated that work should be completed on or about June 5, 1970.

May 1-31

Violation - Crucible Steel Company, Spalding
Works, 1000 South 4th Street, Harrison, New Jersey -
A yellowish oily material flows into the

Crucible Steel Company, Continued-

Passaic River from a large culvert owned by this company. This company claimed that a number of other companies leased land on an industrial tract owned by Crucible Steel Company, and the polluting material was not emanating from Crucible Steel itself, but from one of the other tenants and therefore the Crucible Steel Company, would not be liable.

The Commissioners maintained that since the culvert from which this material discharges into the Passaic River was owned by Crucible Steel Company, that Crucible Steel Company was liable for any polluting material emanating from the culvert. Since there seem to be a difference of opinion concerning liability the Commissioners instituted suit against Crucible Steel Company. An Order To Show Cause was returnable, May 15, 1970, but was postponed to June 12, 1970.

On May 11, Mr. Lubetkin, Mr. Goldberg, and Mr. Cuccinello, of the Commissioners' office met with representatives of Crucible Steel Company and representatives of the tenant companies concerning this matter. At this conference all of the companies agreed that it was their mutual responsibility and they would work to locate the source of pollution and have it eliminated. As of the end of the month the pollution was still evident.

May 1-31

Violation - Mr. and Mrs. E. Edelbock, 563 Passaic Avenue, Kearny, New Jersey - Sanitary and household waste continue to discharge directly into the Passaic River from houseboat docked at this location. Legal action had been previously started by the Commissioners and the Court had issued an Injunction against the Edelbocks on September 24th, 1969.

On May 14, 1970, Mr. Durkin, the Commissioners' Attorney, wrote to the Edelbocks advising them of the Restraining Order and informing them they were not complying with terms of order. Mr. Durkin, also advised that if the pollution was not abated by the Commissioners' meeting of May 28, 1970, he would recommend contempt proceedings. The pollution was not abated by the above date and Mr. Durkin was directed to proceed with any legal steps necessary to halt the pollution.

May 19-

Violation - Fairlawn-Radburn Treatment Plant, Fairlawn, New Jersey - The sample taken of this plant's discharge on May 6, 1970, was satisfactory. However a sample taken on May 19, 1970, had a B.O.D. of 67, and a C.O.D. of 98, both of which are considered too

Fairlawn-Radburn Treatment Plant, Continued-
high by the Commissioners. The plant operator was informed of the situation.

May 6 & 19 Violation - Ridgewood Sewerage Treatment Plant,
Prospect Street, Glen Rock, New Jersey - Samples taken
on the above two days showed Coliform even though there
was a considerable Chlorine residual. Mr. Lagrosa,
was informed in both situations. The Commissioners
will continue to monitor this system.

May 1-31 Violation- Thomas Smith, (Houseboat) 1500
McCarter Highway, Newark, New Jersey - Sanitary and
household waste continues to discharge into the Pas-
saic River from this houseboat. However, volume is
small compared to discharge from Second Avenue Storm
Sewer, in the City of Newark, which is adjacent to
this houseboat.

May 1-31 Violation - Tenda-Brand Food, Inc., 176 Saddle
River Road, South Hackensack, New Jersey - Washings
from meat cutting operations are still entering into
Feld's Brook from this company. A sewer line is in
the process of being laid in South Hackensack to
connect to the Lodi Sanitary Sewer. As of the end
of May, the line in Saddle River Road, from Marsellus
Place to the proposed pumping station near Feld's
Brook, has been completed. The pumping station must
still be built and approximately 200 feet of sewer
from the pumping station to the Lodi line will still
have to be built. Target date for completion is July
1970. When this sewer is completed the waste from
Tenda-Brand Food, Inc., will be connected to the sew-
er and the pollution of Feld's Brook will be eliminated.

May 1-31 Violation - Walter Kidde Company, Inc., 675
Main Street, Belleville, New Jersey - Although offi-
cials of this company had informed the inspector, and
subsequently the Commissioners, in a letter dated
March 31, that they would do everything to correct
this pollution, the problem still has not been solved.
Samples taken several times during the month of May
indicate pollution.

On May 21, Mr. Lubetkin, wrote a letter to
this company, informing them despite everything, that
they had done to date, pollution continues and re-
quested information as to what the company would do
to halt this pollution. As of this date, the Com-
missioners had not heard from this company. The
inspectors indicate that much of the problem is
poor housekeeping in areas where there are storm
and floor drains.

May 1-31

Violation - Washington Street Storm Sewer, City of Orange, New Jersey - This is an intermittent violation. E. T. Killam, Associates, had originally recommended a complete rebuilding of this sewer to eliminate the pollution, but the cost was considered too high by the City. Instead the City plugged openings and repaired cracks to halt the pollution. They also installed a chlorination station to disinfect that sewage which they were unable to prevent from leaching into the system. For a period of time, samples were satisfactory then samples were intermittently bad as plugs fell out and cracks opened. During the month of May, samples taken on May 13, May 20, were unsatisfactory, while samples taken on May 5, and May 27, were considered satisfactory.

May 1-31

Violation - West Diner, Route 46 & Clove Road, Little Falls, New Jersey - This company operates a sewage treatment plant which discharges into Pearl Brook. The effluent from this plant is considered unsatisfactory and polluting.

On February 27, 1970, the Commissioners filed a complaint and an Order To Show Cause by this company was to be heard on March 13th, 1970. This matter was postponed at the request of West Diner, since they had plans to build a sewer from their plant to the Clifton Sewer System. All approvals have been obtained from the City of Clifton and the Township of Little Falls. On May 4th, the attorney for the Diner, wrote to the Commissioners stating they were ready to proceed but they were still awaiting approval from the State Department of Health. On May 7, Mr. Lubetkin, wrote to the State Department of Health, requesting status of this matter, so that the pollution could be halted as soon as possible. Mr. Lubetkin, followed up his letter with calls to Mr. Segesser, on May 11, and again on May 13th. On May 13th, Mr. Segesser informed Mr. Lubetkin, he would check into the matter immediately. On May 13th, Mr. Segesser, sent a letter to the City of Clifton, informing them that the State has approved the sewer and the letter authority for them to proceed immediately. As of the end of May, no work had started on this project.

May 1-8

Violation and Elimination- The City of Clifton - A pump failure in the Clifton Pumping Station caused an overflow of sanitary waste to a storm ditch along side the Pioneer Can Company Plant, at Kuller Road. The ditch passes under Route No. 46 & enters Weasel Brook. The pump was repaired on May 8, and the pollution halted.

May 6

Violation and Elimination - Cadie Products Corp., 100 6th Avenue, Paterson, New Jersey - On April 29, an oil in the Passaic River was traced to a Paterson Storm overflow. After notifying the City of Paterson, the Commissioners' personnel lifted man-hole covers on the storm sewers and finally traced the source of the overflow to the Cadie Products Corp.. They were informed that this type of dump was illegal and they were directed not to repeat this pollution. On May 29, the company sent a letter to the Commissioners informing them that they would cooperate completely and would take all necessary steps to see that this problem would not recur.

May 1-15

Violation and Elimination - John Dusenbery, Company, 395 Allwood Road, Clifton, New Jersey - Pollution in the Styertowne Creek, as traced back to this company. Someone from the company had dumped a 55 gallon tank of green material into the area at the rear of the plant and then washed the material to a ditch which ran to Styertowne Creek. Mr. Lubetkin sent a letter to this company on May 1, informing them that this discharge is illegal and directing them to refrain from doing this type of thing in the future. On May 19, the company replied that they have ceased that type of operation and now are using a holding tank to contain the barrels of polluting material and are disposing it through a commercial disposing source on a monthly basis. Inspections by the inspectors bear this out. This company also informed the inspector that their sanitary waste was being disposed through a septic tanks. The Commissioners requested that these be halted and a connection should be made to the Clifton Sewer System. The company replied that they were lessees and were forwarding our letter to the owner of the property.

May 1-15

Violation and Elimination - Automat^{ed}~~ed~~ Business Systems Division of Litton Industries - 31 Styertowne Road, Clifton, New Jersey. - This plant had been discharging cleaning materials into a flood control sump which was thence pumped to Styertowne Creek, a tributary of the Passaic River. On May 4, Mr. Lubetkin, wrote a letter to the company informing them that the discharge was polluting and should be halted.

On May 6, the Commissioners were informed by the company, that this practice was being discontinued and would not be repeated. Inspections by the Commissioners indicated that the polluting discharge from this company was halted.

May 14-

Violation and Elimination - Marcal Paper Mills, Inc., 1 Market Street, East Paterson, New Jersey - A sample of their discharge on May 14th, indicated that it contained polluting material. Subsequent samples taken May 21, 27, showed the discharge was satisfactory. Pollution occurs when there are spillages in certain areas which lead to the storm system thence to the river. This company repiped the troublesome areas into the sanitary sewer. This work was completed by the end of May.

May 1-

Violation and Elimination - Newark Asphalt Corp., 1500 McCarter Highway, Newark, New Jersey - This plant normally inoperative during the winter months, is in operation approximately 4 hours a day, during good weather. Samples of the discharge to the river from this plant, taken during April and again on May 12, indicated a very high temperature, 130° to 140° Fahrenheit, a high turbidity and relatively high suspended solids. Although C.O.D. was very low and B.O.D. was practically non existing.

On May 7, a letter was sent to the company, informing them of their pollution. On May 8, the Newark Asphalt Corp., replied indicating they did not know they were polluting and would do everything to halt the pollution at once. They desired information concerning the nature of pollution. On May 14, Mr. Lubetkin, wrote to the company telling the types of pollution. On May 18, the company wrote to the Commissioners telling what they would do to alleviate the pollution and ask for further information. Inspector reported that the company had installed a thermometer, in their discharge pipe and the temperature is controlled by additional well water, piped through a 4" discharge pipe. A sample taken on May 26, indicated, discharge temperature of only 74°, turbidity was within range, and only the suspended solids was slightly high.

The Commissioners will continue to monitor the discharge from this company.

May 12-31

Violation and Elimination - Paisley Products Inc., 1153 Bloomfield Avenue, Clifton, New Jersey - Pollution in Third River was traced back to Nichols Pond and then to the Styertown Creek. After extensive field tests, the Commissioners isolated the source of the major pollution, as coming from the property of Hoffman-LaRoche. Further work, narrowed it down to the area of the Paisley Products Inc., a tenant on the Hoffman La-Roche property. Mr. Lubetkin,

Paisley Products Inc., Continued-

informed Mr. Newcomb, Plant Manager, that pollution of the Nichols Pond had been traced to his company. This was confirmed in a letter, dated, May 13, 1970. Mr. Newcomb, was directed to do everything to locate source of pollution and to halt it at once.

On May 15, Mr. Newcomb, wrote to Mr. Lubetkin, explaining, that the pollution must have been from accidental spills on the floor drains, as there are no direct connections from his processing to the Styertowne Creek. He stated that in order to avoid any future accidents, the floor drains were being cemented and the area was reconnected to the sanitary sewer. After this was accomplished the Commissioners rechecked the area and still found polluting material emanating from the Paisley Products Inc..

On May 21, Mr. Lubetkin, wrote to Mr. Newcomb, telling him that despite previous changes made, pollution was still emanating from Paisley Products, Inc.. The Commissioners' personnel helped the employees from Paisley Products locate and isolate the pipe from which the pollution was coming. It was subsequently found that an underground pipe approximately 250 feet long 3" in diameter, must have broken somewhere along this length and the polluting material was leaching through the ground, reaching the drain that goes to Styertowne Creek. In a letter of May 25, 1970, Paisley Products Inc., explained this and stated that it was their intention to replace the pipe as soon as they could get an engineering firm and as soon as the outside tank, which had approximately 5,000 gallons in material, was emptied. The polluting material was a Poly Vinyl Acetate Monomer. On May 29, Mr. Lubetkin sent a telegram to Paisley Products Inc., indicating that the pollution in Nichols Pond was critical and they were directed to halt pollution at once, if necessary halting operations and emptying tanks immediately involving the broken pipe until repairs were made. This was done and although the Commissioners believe the source of pollution has halted there is residual material in the ground which will take a short period of time to clear.

Comments on the Passaic River and its tributaries from the Great Falls in Paterson to the mouth at Newark Bay.

The flow in the Passaic River was average for the month of May. From about May 8th to the 16th, it was relatively dry and the flow was low but on the 16th, rain started and the flow on May 18th and 19th was exceptionally high. It also rained on May 25 and May 26 and the flow remained above average until about May 28th and then started to taper off to the end of the month. The U.S. Geological Survey Gaging Station at Little Falls, showed an average of 559 cubic feet per second, for May 1970, as compared to 577 cubic feet per second, for May 1969.

The water sampled above the Great Falls at McBride Avenue in Paterson, was low in quality, generally running about 50% saturation although the sample on May 22nd, showed only 38.2% saturation of oxygen. The Commissioners were having trouble with Paterson overflows from the middle of the month, which allowed the discharge of some industrial waste into the river during peak hours. The volume was relatively small and actually had little or no effect upon the overall quality of the river, but the appearance at the location of these particular overflows was not good and it is recommended that everything be done to accelerate the report and implementation of an additional sewer in this area. Generally speaking the condition of the river is good, (well above the state requirements) from Paterson down to Newark. However in the lower Newark area the effect of the polluting storm sewers is noticeable. The overflows from Blanchard Street, Lockwood Street, Brown Street, Second Avenue Storm Sewer, Roanoke Avenue Storm Sewer and Harrison Creek Storm Sewer are causing an oxygen sag in the river. The dissolved oxygen of the river starts to drop at approximately Clay Street, Newark, but it is expected that as soon as Newark has corrected these discharges and time allowed for the benthal deposits on the bottom of the river, to stabilize that the condition of the river in the lower reaches will improve. The lower end of the river is also effected by the tidal back flow of Newark Bay.

During this month, the condition of Third River deteriorated rapidly. This was traced back to Nichols Pond and thence to Styertowne Creek, (see Paisley Products, Inc. of this month's report). Since the source of this pollution was eliminated it is expected that in June, this stream will recover.

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On May 22, a pollution was noted in the Passaic River at the Park Avenue Bridge, Nutley, but it disappeared before the source could be detected.

The intermittent pollution previously noted at Monroe Street Bridge, Passaic, was not detected this month.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "S. A. Lubetkin", is written over a horizontal line.

S. A. Lubetkin, Chief Engineer

SAL:mr